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CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD
A FLORA OF NEVADA. NO. 18.

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POLYGALACEAE OF NEVADA

by

S. F. BLAKE

January 6, 1941

Issued by

The Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction,
Bureau of Plant Industry,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

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Work Projects Administration of Nevada,
Projects, O. P. 65-2-04-13, W. P. 658;
O. P. 165-2-04-21, W. P. 752.

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Collaborator

University of Nevada.

Address all queries concerning this publication to the Division
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POLYGALACEAE OF NEVADA

By S. F. Blake

Herbs or shrubs; leaves alternate (in ours), simple, entire, estipulate; flowers complete, irregular, somewhat papilionaceous, racemose or subaxillary, hypogynous; sepals 5, the 2 inner (wings) usually much larger than the others and petaloid; petals 3, united below and to the stamen tube, the middle (lower) one keel-shaped, crested, beaked, or unappendaged; stamens (in ours) 8, monadelphous; style 1; ovary (in ours) 2-celled; ovules solitary; fruit (in ours) a 2-seeded capsule.

POLYGALA L. Milkwort.

Characters of the family.

KEY TO SPECIES

Flowers pink-purple and yellow, about 10 mm. long; capsule 6-7

mm. long - - - - - 1. *P. subspinos*a.

Flowers yellowish, 3.8-5 mm. long; capsule about 4.5 mm. long.

Stem and branches densely spreading-pilosulous; sepals spread-

ing-pilosulous - - - - - 2. *P. acanthoclada*.

Stem and branches densely tomentose with incurved or reflexed matted hairs; sepals glabrous.

2a. *P. acanthoclada* var. *intricata*.

1. *POLYGALA SUBSPINOSA* S. Wats. Amer. Nat. 7: 299. 1873.

Much-branched undershrub, 5-20 cm. high, densely spreading-puberulous to nearly glabrous, the branches spinescent; leaves obovate to elliptic, 1-2.2 cm. long, 3-6 mm. wide, mucronulate, reticulate-veiny; racemes 6-9-flowered, loose, the axis spinescent; pedicels 6-9 mm. long; keel about 10 mm. long, the blunt porrect beak 2 mm. long.

Plains and dry hillsides in the artemisia and pinyon belts, central eastern, central, and central western Nevada (White Pine, Washoe, Lyon, and Nye Counties). Western Colorado to southeastern California, south to northern New Mexico and northern Arizona.

2. *POLYGALA ACANTHOCLADA* A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. 11: 73.
1876.

Intricately branched undershrub, 10-90 cm. high, densely spreading-pilosulous, the branchlets spinescent; leaves spatulate or linear-spatulate, 6-17 mm. long, 1-2.5 mm. wide, obtuse, reticulate-veiny; racemes loosely 3-4-flowered, the axis spinescent; pedicels 3.5-5 mm. long; flowers yellowish, the upper petals sometimes purplish-tipped; keel 3.8-5 mm. long, not beaked.

Plains and dry hillsides of the covillea and artemisia belts, southwestern Nevada. Southwestern Colorado to southeastern California and northern Arizona.

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2a. POLYGALA ACANTHOCLADA var. INTRICATA Eastw. Proc. Calif. Acad.

II. 6: 283. 1896.

Southern Nevada (Clark and Esmeralda Counties). Utah,
southern Nevada, and northern Arizona.

